(c) whether Government will extend special economic package for re-building tourist industry in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(d) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Tourism is one of the Key industries of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) Eruption of militancy in the State has adversely affected tourist traffic to Kashmir Valley.

(c) and (d) Development of tourism infrastructure is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/UT Administrations. Department of Tourism, Government of India, however, provides some financial assistance for tourism projects prioritized in consultation with them every year. Fortynhree projects with Central component of Rs. 1212.56 lakhs have been sanctioned in Jammu & Kashmir during the 1st four years of the Ninth Plan.

Stay of ITDC Officials in Ashoka and Kanishka Hotels

† 3024. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names and posts of those three officers of Indian Tourism Development Corporation who are encamping with their families in Ashoka and Kanishka Hotels;

(b) whether it is a fact that despite getting promotion and allotment of Government accommodation these officers are encamping in the said hotels, as a result thereof corporation is incurring loss of lakhs of rupees each month;

(c) if so, the action taken by Government against them despite the instructions of Corporation with regard to vacating the hotel; and

(d) by when, they would be asked to vacate the hotel?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) 3 Senior officials were occupying

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

residential accommodation in hotels. Strict instructions have been issued to get these vacated with immediate effect. Those who have not vacated by the specified date that is October 31, 2001 would be , charged full market rate.

Protection of Buddhist Stupa in Farukhabad, U.P.

3025. SHRI VEN'BLE DHAMMAVIRIYO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a historic "Buddhist Stupa" has been discovered at Sankashya in Farukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the action taken to excavate this site and to find out its historic background and importance; and

(c) the steps taken to preserve and protect this important historic place for pilgrimage and tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Sir, the recent excavation conducted by the Archaeological Survey of India from 1995 to 1997 at Sankisa (ancient Sankashya) in district Farukhabad, U.P. has not yielded any "Buddhist Stupa" However, some structures and objects ranging in time from the 9th century BC to AD 3rd century has been found.

(c) The site is under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India.

Development of Parinirvan-Sthala In Khushinagar, U.P.

† 3026. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to formulate a new programme of development and facilities to make Khushinagar of U.P. favourable for tourism; and

(b) what is the number of tourists visiting every year at

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.